

CLAIMS:

1. A games system comprising a games console and an adaptor unit,

5 wherein the games console comprises:

(i) a console housing;

(ii) a game interface within said console housing for receiving a game product;

10 (iii) a display interface within said console housing for interfacing said games console to a display;

(iv) a user interface within said console housing for receiving user input;

15 (v) a game controller within said console housing for receiving game data from said game interface and said user input from said user interface and for generating therefrom game video data for output to said display interface;

20 (vi) an adaptor interface within said console housing for coupling the games console with said adaptor unit; and

(vii) a video player within said housing for receiving encoded video data from said adaptor unit via said adaptor interface and for outputting decoded video data to said display interface;

25 wherein said adaptor unit comprises:

(i) an adaptor housing;

(ii) a video data receiver within said adaptor housing for receiving encoded video data from a remote video provider;

30 (iii) a games console interface within said adaptor

housing for interfacing said adaptor unit to said adaptor interface of said games console; and

(iv) a communications controller within said adaptor housing for outputting encoded video data to said video player of said games console via said console interface and said adaptor interface.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the adaptor unit further comprises encryption means for encrypting the video data to be output to said video player via said console interface and wherein said video player includes decryption means for decrypting the video data.

3. A system according to claim 2, wherein said video player includes embedded data for decrypting the encrypted video data.

4. A system according to claim 3, wherein said adaptor unit further comprises a secure processor for storing an encryption key for use by said encryption means for encrypting said video data.

5. A system according to claim 4, wherein an intermediate decryption key is provided in said secure processor, wherein said communications controller is operable to pass said intermediate decryption key to said video player via said console interface and said adaptor interface and wherein said decryption means of said video player is operable to decrypt said video data using said embedded data and said intermediate decryption key.

6. A system according to claim 4 or 5, wherein said secure processor is formed on a smart-card which is retractable from a smart-card reader mounted within said adaptor housing.

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7. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein said adaptor unit further comprises a large capacity storage means for storing video data or game data and wherein said games console further comprises a controller responsive to a user input from said user interface and operable to transmit game history data to said communications controller of said adaptor unit via said console interface and said adaptor interface and wherein said communications controller is operable to store said game history data in said large capacity storage means.

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8. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein said adaptor unit further comprises a modem within said adaptor housing for connecting the adaptor unit to a data network.

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9. A system according to claim 8, wherein said games console further comprises a web browser within said console housing for receiving menu pages from a remote server via said modem in said adaptor unit, said console interface and said adaptor interface and for generating menu screens for output to said display interface.

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10. A system according to claim 8 or 9, wherein said games console is operable to transmit and to receive game

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data to and from said data network via said modem and said adaptor unit to provide network gaming to a user thereof.

5 11. An adaptor unit for use with a games console, the adaptor unit comprising:

an adaptor housing;

10 a video data receiver within the adaptor housing for receiving encoded video data from a remote video provider;

a games console interface within said adaptor housing for interfacing said adaptor unit to said games console; and

15 a communications controller within said adaptor housing for outputting encoded video data to said games console via said console interface.

20 12. An adaptor unit according to claim 11, further comprising encryption means for encrypting the video data to be output to said games console via said console interface and a secure processor within said adaptor housing for storing an encryption key for use by said encryption means for encrypting said video data.

25 13. An adaptor unit according to claim 12, wherein said secure processor is retractable from said adaptor housing and is formed on a smart-card and wherein said adaptor housing includes a smart-card reader for reading the encryption key from said smart-card processor.

14. An adaptor unit according to any of claims 11 to 13, further comprising a large capacity storage means for storing video data or game data and wherein said communications controller is operable to receive game history data from said games console via said console interface and is operable to store the received game history data in said large capacity storage means.

15. An adaptor unit according to any of claims 11 to 14, further comprising a modem within said adaptor housing for connecting the adaptor unit to a data network.

16. An adaptor unit according to claim 15, wherein said adaptor unit is operable to receive game data from said games console and to transmit the received game data to said data network and is operable to receive game data from said data network and to transmit the game data received from the data network to said games console, to provide network gaming to a user of the games console.

17. A games console for use in the system according to any of claims 1 to 10, the games console comprising:

a console housing;

a game interface within said console housing for receiving a game product;

a display interface within said console housing for interfacing said games console to a display;

a user interface within said console housing for receiving user input;

a game controller within said console housing for

receiving game data from said game interface and said user input from said user interface and for generating therefrom game video data for output to said display interface;

5 an adaptor interface within said console housing for coupling the games console with said adaptor unit; and
 a video player within said housing for receiving encoded video data from said adaptor unit via said adaptor interface and for outputting decoded video data
10 to said display interface.

18. A games console according to claim 17, wherein said games console further comprises a controller responsive to a user input from said user interface and operable to
15 transmit game history data to said adaptor unit.

19. A games console according to claim 17 or 18, further comprising a web browser within said console housing for receiving menu pages from a remote server via a modem in
20 said adaptor unit, and for generating menu screens for output to said display interface.

20. A games console according to claim 19, operable to transmit and to receive game data to and from said data
25 network via said modem and said adaptor unit to provide network gaming to a user thereof.

21. A method of providing video data for display, the method comprising the steps of:
30 interfacing an adaptor unit with a games console;

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receiving at said adaptor unit encoded video data
from a remote video provider;

outputting encoded video data from said adaptor unit
to said games console through said interface;

5 decoding in said games console said encoded video
data to generate decoded video data; and
outputting the decoded video data for display.